

20 July 1981

NOTE FOR: Admiral Inman

VIA: [redacted]
Director, Intelligence Community Staff

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FROM: [redacted]
Director, Community Services Office

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SUBJECT: Planning

1. Last week I spent some time with the planning people from Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation (FACC) and with their counterparts in Ford's Corporate Strategy and Analysis Staff.

2. During preliminary conversations, Mr. H. E. Hockeimer, President of FACC, made a suggestion which I thought had great merit and which I promised to pass along to you. Mr. Hockeimer observed that companies, particularly those in high technology areas, find it most difficult to stay abreast of the general technology directions of interest inside the government. Typically industry must decide on which technologies they need to pursue well in advance of any indication of what the government may be relying on them to bring to fruition. Mr. Hockeimer believes that if we are serious about a renewed effort in the strategic planning area, we ought to consider some sort of advisory board with membership drawn from industry that could participate in reviewing long range Community plans. The idea would be to create a forum for regular discussion of key planning issues.

3. While there are some obvious pitfalls--for example, we would have to guard against giving (or even appearing to give) selected companies a competitive edge--it seems the kind of thing that might be pursued as part of a revitalized IR&D Council. The concept, admittedly vague at the moment, would be to ask private sector people to participate on a quarterly or semi-annual basis with an agenda focused on plans but set by the IR&DC. The product of each meeting might be a memo from whoever agrees to chair the civilian panel to you (or the DCI) commenting on key issues that seem to be emerging from our planning effort. To finesse the question of unfair competition and still keep the group manageable membership and the chair could be put on a rotating basis.

4. Mr. Hockeimer also asked me to pass along his warm personal regards.

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cc: [redacted]

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